



Heaton Moor United Church

The United Reformed Church and The Methodist Church
working together in partnership



Zoom Services and Meetings

Sunday 16th August Circuit Service 3.00pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87212246881?pwd=VXpyMzRYV21UZ1ZoYlkc2R4dmV1QT09>

Meeting ID: 872 1224 6881 Password: 974333

Wednesday 19th August Coffee and Prayer 11.00am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/95327541668?pwd=ekU2QWgzZjVKWtBFTjZsb0tERVQrdz09>

Meeting ID: 953 2754 1668 Password: 794265

Joining by telephone

Step 1)

Dial any of the following numbers. If one doesn't work try another and another until you are able to connect:

0330 088 5830

0131 460 1196

0203 481 5237

0203 481 5240

0208 080 6591

0208 080 6592

Step 2)

Follow the prompts you hear on the phone.

You may be prompted to enter 3 different things:

1 -- Meeting ID followed by hash #

2 -- Password followed by hash #

3 -- Participants ID -- You will not have one of these, don't worry, all you need to do is enter "Hash" #

You should then be entered into the service.

Private Prayer and Reflection Opening Times

Monday 10.00am to 12.00pm

Thursday 6.00pm to 8.00pm

Hello Friends,

www.heatonmoorunitedchurch.org.uk

As Raj is on holiday this week there is no letter from him this week. Carol has done the reflection this week, thank you.

I have had a busy week this week meeting up with some of our community hirers going through how they can start meeting up in September, the hall is going to be sparkling with the amount of cleaning it is going to get.

We are also getting ready to come back to a worship in September too. Thank you to those that have informed me if they are planning on coming.

So, if you are a Rota for Welcome (only 1 person is needed so speak to your partner and sort out who is doing it), PA or Security dig them out and see if you are due to do it in September and beyond. If you can't find them, let me know and I can send them out.

If you are not available to do it, please try and organise a swop if you can't get someone let me know and I will help arranging cover. There will be a full guidance on what you will be expected to do prior to reopening.

It has been busy at home too, waiting to get Tom's A level results. It has been very stressful for him especially after the news about Scotland's results last week. After a very tense 10 mins trying to access the University Allocation site, he found out that he had been accepted to go and study History at Bristol University in September (his first choice).

So, I would like to thank you all for your prayers and thoughts regarding Tom and his exams this year. I not sure who is more excited him or me!!!! Sssh! don't tell him, but I will miss him, and it will feel very strange not having him at home.

Other good news, Connie has her birthday this week and Dorothy Mason has finally had her pacemaker fitted and is recovering at her daughters.

Stay Safe Everyone

God Bless

Sharon



Things we can't do:

No Singing



No Hymn Books/Notice Sheets



No tea/coffee



Things we can do:

Follow Social Distancing



Wear a face covering



Pray



Due to this, the amount of people we can seat is limited.

Worship Together (30 mins Max)

Can you please let me know if you are planning on attending so we can get an idea of figures.

Thank you
Sharon



Never underestimate the power of a persistent woman and the God in whom she believes

Reflection on Matthew 15:21-28

Have you been in the supermarket recently where there is a woman trying to calm down her distressed child?

Do you judge her along with the others who are tut tutting at this child?

A child, who obviously has no manners and who hasn't been raised properly.

Do you consider that this precious child may have special needs?

Do you wonder why this woman brought the child to the supermarket just to annoy you?

Do you consider that she might be a single Mum, choosing which battle to fight for the next 10 minutes?

Do you judge her status?

She might be a mixed race woman, who has been subjected to racial abuse under the current tensions.

She might be a refugee, who has also been subjected to racial abuse under the current tensions.

She might be struggling because her Universal Credit has failed to arrive.

Do you resent those people who have to rely on Universal Credit?

She may have lost her job during the pandemic.

Do you resent those people who just can't be bothered to find themselves a proper job?

Do you consider that she may have resigned herself to the fact that no-one cares enough about her or her child to offer any kindness?

Do you consider her dilemma as she considers whether to purchase food for the next couple of days or whether to purchase a little treat to make her child's day a little more fun than it has been?

Do you consider she might have no family or friends in the area, even at all, to offer a little respite?

She might have been cooped up in a high rise flat for 5 months now during the pandemic. The needs of her special child (intentionally worded) may have fallen through the support net.

The child may have also been cooped up for the last 5 months.

Today might be this woman's last stand.

She might not have enough energy to do what she needs to do.

She might not have slept for the last week because it's too hot for her and her child.

We just don't know what her circumstances are.

But we'll judge her.

Our prejudices will rise to the fore and we'll judge her.

The woman in our reading today would most certainly have been discriminated against for at least 2 reasons.

First of all, she is a woman – obviously an accident at birth.

So she is a second class citizen.

She is used to being ignored by men.

She's used to being ignored even by other women.

She's a Gentile, so she was viewed as a dog by the Jews – obviously another accident at birth.

She may be mixed race – obviously another accident at birth.

She may have been ostracised by her Father's family.
She may have been ostracised by her Mother's family.
Her pregnancy may have been unplanned.
She may be a mixed race single Mum of a mixed race child.

Whatever her reason for being there, this amazingly courageous woman has survived this far!

And she's a Gentile.

Some people would have suggested the child's special needs were punishment for the mother's behaviour.

Some people would have suggested that she has what she deserves.

So now, she's desperate!

What are her options?

How does she continue?

She's heard about a Jewish guy, an itinerant preacher that performs miracles.

But she's a Gentile.

She's heard this preacher is heading north to Tyre and Sidon, which is where she lives.

But she's a Gentile.

She's heard he casts out demons.

But she's a Gentile.

She's at the end of her tether now because she's tried everything else she can think of.

And she's a Gentile.

If she can intercept him on his travels, surely he'll heal a child, her child?

But she's a Gentile.

Then He arrives.

She has another battle to fight again now.

Did I mention she's a Gentile?

She doubles back into the familiar warrior mode, which is her default position.

The preacher arrives and her fears become reality!

Jesus ignores her plea for a blessing.

Jesus remains silent.

Did I mention that she's a Gentile.

She's also a woman so expected no response from a man, moreover, a Jewish man.

She's accustomed to fighting and defending and protecting and struggling at every step.

She's a Gentile, so she expected contempt from a Jew.

The disciples are somewhat uncomfortable now with Jesus' silence.

It's very awkward.

They try to send her away because they assume Jesus' silence spells rejection.

Verse 21 tells us that Jesus travelled up to the region of Tyre and Sidon, which is a good 30km.

We're not sure what the purpose of the visit was.

All we know is that Jesus went there, took part in this encounter, then left the region.

It was as if Jesus walked all that way just to talk to this woman and heal her daughter.

Imagine Jesus doing all of that for one Gentile woman!

Can you imagine?

Then Jesus tells her that His blessings were intended for the Jews, for God's people.
As if that isn't bad enough, He then likens her to a dog.
But she's a female warrior.
She's already fought a life and a half.
She's not phased yet.
She also knows that this Jesus can heal her daughter if He chooses.

We have to ask why Jesus is giving this poor woman such a hard time.
She just wants her daughter to be free of the demons.
It's not her fault she was born a Gentile.

The timing of this encounter is strange, given that the first half of this chapter has Jesus telling the Pharisees that clean and unclean is determined by what is said from the heart, certainly not race, or ethnicity, or class or what food is consumed.
Jesus seems uncharacteristically harsh, and dare I say rude, in this scenario.
We also know that whatever Jesus says is intentional, He doesn't make mistakes.
So what can we learn here?

We see that the woman's faith is persistent even at her lowest ebb.
She greeted Jesus with 'Lord, Son of David'
She therefore had some knowledge of the scriptures.
She knew that Jesus had authority and power.
She praised Him in her pain when she called out 'Lord, help me!'.
We see a reliance on God in the face of adversity and loss and poverty.

The woman demonstrated humility, which is often seen as weakness in our world today.
She could have responded angrily to Jesus, as we often do today.
However this woman is fighting for all she's worth, for her child.
She knows that Jesus can offer healing for her child.
All she needs is a crumb from under the table, a touch of His coat.....
1 Peter 5:5 'God rejects the proud, but He gives grace to the humble'.
In fact, so confident is she that Jesus can heal her, that she hasn't even brought her daughter with her.
It's as if her faith is being tested to the nth degree!

This woman also demonstrated a real determination to push on.
She was used to fighting.
She wasn't going to give up because others told her not to waste Jesus' time.
She pleaded with Him 3 times for help.
She was used to having to repeat herself anyway.
Jesus prayed the same prayer 3 times in the Garden of Gethsemane.
Elijah prayed 7 times before he saw the first cloud.
This woman was used to not being heard first or second time.
When she was knocked down, she would pull herself up, brush herself down and start all over again
She would keep on knocking until someone answered.
She was knocking on Jesus' door here and she wasn't going away any time soon.

What can we learn from this encounter?

Our faith is often tested in order to develop it into something deeper.

Abraham was asked to sacrifice his son, Isaac.

David fought Goliath.

Jacob wrestled with God.

This encounter wasn't just a supermarket one off special that would be forgotten once consumed.

And the fact is that although this woman's daughter might be healed, her troubles would not be over.

She would still be a Gentile.

She would still have to choose which battles to fight on a daily basis.

She would still often find herself in warrior mode during difficult times.

She would still be a single Mum of mixed race.

She would still be living in a male dominated, racially sensitive culture, which would challenge her every single day of her life.

This encounter would develop in her a deep courageous faith that would sustain her for the rest of her life.

During this pandemic, the question I've heard most is this:

Where's God in all of this?

He's right here with us by His Holy Spirit!

I pray that we see God right there in the supermarket (and everywhere else) during those moments of intense challenge, indignation and irritation.

I pray that we pull ourselves up when we find ourselves judging.

I pray that we keep on praying for God's direction in this strange world.

I pray that we keep on asking God what He wants of us.

I pray that the Holy Spirit guides us and teaches us grace and discernment and deep love for our neighbours.

I pray that we are tenacious in our persistence of prayer.

I pray that we remain humble in those moments of adversity and need.

I pray that our prayers are persistent as we grow our faith in God.

I pray that our faith remains deeper as this crisis continues.

I pray that we continue to love our neighbours and share the Good News of Jesus with them at every opportunity.

I pray these prayers in the precious name of Jesus.

Amen.

Carol Jack

13th August 2020



The
United
Reformed
Church

The Methodist Church 

United Stockport Circuit (Manchester and Stockport District)

Pastoral Letter, August 12th

As I write, it is a blistering hot evening and I have just spent the last hour and a half typing one-handed as I hold my telephone receiver in the other. I am waiting to report some anti-social behaviour currently occurring in one of my Churches to the police. I have completed one piece of work – a Midweek Service for later in the week, and since I am still being played the recorded message, I will continue with this. Such is the life of a Minister!!

I find myself idly wondering what would Jesus have done? The kids I am to report are playing football and it is late. Well it was late 90 minutes ago, it's almost 11.00 pm now and I'm about to give up. The kids shouldn't be out – we're in a partial lockdown. They shouldn't be in the Church grounds at all, never mind at this time of night. They're often there in the afternoon and making annoying noises then, too.

At this time of night, Jesus might well have found himself willing to go and tell them they shouldn't be annoying folk. In the afternoon, I have a sneaking sort of an idea he might have joined them for a bit. Obviously not causing any damage!

I think I will have to hope that they have gone home for the night now, and have a look tomorrow. And before you ask, yes, we do have the gate shut, the fences fixed, a bolt on the gate and Private Property signs up! Or perhaps I should look heavenward for rain.

But there is a serious point in here. When this has happened before with other youngsters, as long as they weren't getting up to real trouble, I have always thought that if the Church can't welcome them inasmuch as is possible, they will remember that for the rest of their lives. Give them a bit of leeway and a smile and a listening ear, and they will remember that long after we think they've forgotten and we certainly have, When they're feeling lost, sad or alone or that the world is against them, they might just turn to that Jesus bloke we were telling them about that summer when they were out playing football.

We get used to our little ways in Church. We keep it nice, clean and tidy. And that is right and proper, But what did Jesus spend his time doing? We don't hear a great deal of him in the synagogue or Temple – we do hear of him there, but mostly we hear of him being outside in the street, with people, with families, with crowds, individuals young and older. I can imagine him playing marbles, skipping, boules or frisbee. But mostly I can see him talking to people, discussing things with them, and listening to what they had to say – what was on their mind.

Perhaps this pandemic has a lesson for us. Maybe we should be less set in our ways, and more prepared to be open to people, less structured and formulaic in our worship and more willing to talk about our faith and what is so good about it to people who might want to know. (At least, when we're allowed to do such things again!). When we are able to re-open, *and* welcome in others freely, what about trying something different?

- Maybe your Church has a garden, large car park or field and you could welcome people in with a breakfast, coffee and cake or a simple afternoon tea? Instead of a 5 hymn sandwich let people talk to us about the things that bother them and we can talk about how God helps us when things are tough and would love to help them too.
- Maybe your Church has a large room or hall, and you could invite people in for games (and a coffee etc. – I do love coffee!) and talk with them and listen to them as you play.
- Maybe you could set up a community garden in front of your church for people to join in with. Maybe you could give away some plants – you might receive some, too!

I'm sure you can come up with loads of different ideas. But think about doing these, sometimes, *instead of* the Sunday Morning service, which are obviously important, and 'power' us for the rest of the week, but a crucial part of our faith-life is about people. In the song *Have you heard God's voice*, each chorus ends with the line *Will you trust in One who entrusts to you the disciples of tomorrow*; and in the song *Father, I place into your hands* there are the lines *Father, I want to love the ones that You will draw to You*. We sing these songs quite happily – they have such pretty tunes. But the prettiness of the tunes belies the challenge of the words. We sing them happily enough, but how are we going to carry out what we have sung?

We have been told several times that so much of our current problems are caused, in part at least, by our actions, including this pandemic. For several years now I have been clicking on various websites, and here is a list of them. Give them a try! The Anthropologist, Margaret Mead once said; "Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For indeed, that's all who ever have." To give you an idea, Ecosia has recently celebrated planting 100,000,000 trees in a variety of places where they are needed, You can look them up on Youtube.

Everyclick or **Give as you Live** (they are linked): each search raises a bit of money and purchases made through the website by companies who donate (they have a little icon and a line saying how much they donate) and they raise variable amounts of money. Some give 4%, some 0.25%. Over the years I have raised over £543. The default charity is Christian Aid, but any registered charity can be supported, and I support a Methodist Charity, All We Can.

I use this website for purchases and to get to the next, which is:

Ecosia. This one plants trees, and so far has planted well over 103 million!!

The Websites I click on are:

- **Plant trees Land Care Niagara** (go down to the bottom of the home page)
- **Naturavet.se** (click on the brown 'wooden' button – I click until the number increases by .10 or more.
- **Click for the earth, brother earth** (offers a choice of projects to choose from)
- **Ecology fund.com** (3 buttons to click – if you register, they donate 500 sq ft of rainforest)
- **Cannecy click to plant oaks**
- **Free the ocean** – answer 1 questions (doesn't matter if you answer correctly or not) and that removes 1 piece of plastic from the ocean. You can register to see your total, and there is an overall totaliser.
- **Click to donate** offers over 70 charities, some are already in the list. I click on the Polish Hunger Site, Donate Bread, Clean your Country, Forest Watch and the Help Palestines, refugees, children, women and for poverty.
- **Click to donate – clicks 4 charities** (go down the centre of the page and you'll find **Shop for your Cause bonus click Click to Donate**– I click on 17 of them.
and
- **Greatergood.com** – 10 projects to click on

It sounds a lot, but it doesn't take long.

There is one more, which is **Beta freerice**, which donates grains of rice to the World Food Bank for every question correctly answered. This is a new site (was formerly Give Rice for Free) and can be a little erratic.

See how many little actions you can take that add up into big changes! And ... Enjoy!!!

Next week Cathy and Raj are back and I am off, so, enjoy the rest of August!

God Bless You!

Lindsay

PS For those of you who are interested, I never did get through to the police – I gave up at 11.30 pm, I guess that the kids would have been long gone by then anyway!

NOTICES

Worship

Forthcoming weekly circuit services on Zoom are: Sunday 16th August and 23rd August 3pm

You can join all the above services via Zoom with a video link and see and hear everything and everyone else who is participating, or you can join just with audio, *or you can telephone in*. Login details for *all forthcoming services* are as follows:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87212246881?pwd=VXpyMzRYV21UZ1ZoYlkwZ2R4dmV1QT09>

1QT09 Meeting ID: 872 1224 6881 Password: 974333

Circuit Prayer

In addition, every **Sunday morning at 11am** – when we would all normally be in worship in church – we are encouraged to pray the following prayer. This way we stay connected in a very really and tangible way. This week I have added some specific information and prayer points for each of the churches. You can also read more about each church on the Circuit Website www.stockportcircuit.org.uk

God of Love and Life, We pray to you this morning for the life the United Stockport Methodist Circuit, for our sisters and brothers who belong to:

(pausing briefly to reflect after each name)

Christ Church Methodist /URC *[A URC/Methodist LEP in a URC building. Please pray for the small congregation who are divided into a mature congregation who have worshipped and supported the church very faithfully for many years and younger folk and children who form Sunday Fun and meet downstairs. Many members of the church belong to the Green Group, a drama group whose performances go a long way to support the church]*

Dialstone Lane Methodist Church *[Please pray for the church's ongoing commitment to promoting a Good Society through its connections with local politicians. Also pray for the church coming out of lockdown, having lost several long-standing members and friends over the last few months, and for the church's pastoral worker Gill who has been so busy keeping everyone in touch with each other.]*

Davenport Methodist Church *[A smaller church with a medium congregation including 1 family. Please pray for them as they have a lot of ideas to reach out into the community, including local schools and as they seek to embrace different styles of worship. This congregation also has strong links with the Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rainbows.]*

Edgeley Community Church *[A URC/Methodist LEP in a Methodist building. Please pray for their Church Development Worker who co-ordinates many activities including Messy Church, Baby and Toddler Group and Make it, Bake it, and goes out into Care Homes and Schools. The congregation is of mixed age, including 1 family with small children. This congregation has links with the Brownies.]*

Hazel Grove Methodist Church *[please pray for the uniformed organisations closely associated with the church, for their leaders who are trying to keep things going with the young people online during lockdown. Give thanks for a committed team of people who have worked hard to keep in touch with people during lockdown.]*

Heaton Mersey Methodist Church *[please pray for the family church at ten, for Sunday club, for Who let the Dad's out group, for the schools work, for their commitments to cafe worship n different styles of worship, for Lite church, for the mission engagements of the church.]*

Heaton Moor United Church [*please pray for the Dementia drop in, for the Super Sunday and cafe worships, for messy church group, for the community outreach, their engagements for social justice, for women's fellowship and men's fellowship .]*

St. Johns Methodist Church, Cheadle Heath [*please pray for the future of the church and for the directions we'll take as there are issues with the building here. For all the members of the congregation and for their ongoing fellowship.]*

Tiviot Dale Methodist Church, centre of Stockport [*Please pray for the newly formed Tiviot Dale management group who are helping the circuit to think through how we might develop new mission and ministry in the centre of Stockport, and for Revd Caroline Ryder who has been working with the church over the last few months and is now moving on to a new appointment in Bradford].*

Trinity Methodist Church, Bramhall Lane [*This is a large church building with a large car park and gardens, a Guide building in the grounds and a successful cricket club, the grounds of which are owned by the church. Please pray for the Sunday Club, even though very few children come now. The congregation is generally quite traditional in its worship style but does have links with the Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers and they have different styles of worship on Parade Sundays.]*

Windlehurst Methodist Church, High Lane [*Please pray for all the members of Active, the church's flagship project working to promote health and well-being and friendship, who are longing to return to their weekly meeting]*

In this time of isolation and separation may we feel the unity of your spirit in the bonds of peace and love which connect us to one another. We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. We ask that this time of crisis might pass and that those who suffer might find comfort and strength within the knowledge of your grace, revealed through the kindness and compassion of the people of God. Eternal God, though the selfoffering of your Son you have filled our lives with your presence. Help us in our sufferings and trials. Fill us with hope and strengthen us in our weakness. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Moving into the Future

A Monthly Circuit Service

Before Covid-19 and the lock down hit, the Circuit Leadership Team had begun to talk about the possibility of starting a monthly Circuit Service at Tiviot Dale. Over the last few weeks, this idea has gained strength as we have enjoyed worshipping together as a Circuit on Zoom. Obviously, we cannot yet plan to hold this service, and it may be some time before we can. No decision has been taken about when the service will be – it could be a Sunday evening or a weekday evening for example – or about what sort of service it will be, but we hope it will be something a bit different and we to want to be prepared. ***If you would be interested in being part of a group to help organise a monthly circuit service, and/or if you have musical ability and would like to be part of a circuit worship band, then please let Revd Cathy Bird know so that as soon as we can gather again, we have something in place!***



Sunday 16th August 2020 – Alan Darlington

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use whilst we are unable to use Methodist Church premises. If you are well enough why not spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people are sharing this act of worship with you.

Opening Prayer

“Be Still and Know that I am God.”

Sit back. Breathe deeply. Quieten yourself and listen to the noises around you; birds outside, the fridge humming, cars passing by, the neighbour working outside. Offer these things to God in thanks.

Father, I thank you for all there is in our world, natural and man made. As I come into your presence, I celebrate them and praise you for them. Speak to me through all those things and through your Word today. Amen.

Hymn: And Can it Be (Singing the Faith 345)

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29myH7xXl4M>

And can it be that I should gain
an interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain?
For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

'Tis mystery all: the Immortal dies!
Who can explore his strange design?
In vain the first-born seraph tries
to sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
let angel minds enquire no more.

He left his Father's throne above --
so free, so infinite his grace --
emptied himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race.

'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
for, O my God, it found out me!

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
fast bound in sin and nature's night;
thine eye diffused a quickening ray --
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light,
my chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.
Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Let us pray together

Lord, I come before you and acknowledge
that you are King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

I bow before you and recognise you as the
one who is able to do great things.

Help me to trust you and listen to your reply
as I call out to you.

Today's Gospel Reading: Matthew 15: 21-28

Time to Reflect

The Gospel reading raises a multitude of questions and this reflection is not necessarily able to answer them. Why did Jesus seem to reject the woman – surely his message is for all the world? Why were his disciples apparently so heartless? Why did Jesus heal some people and not others? We say that God always answers our prayers but why are some

prayers for healing answered with a 'no'? That last one is surely more pertinent now than ever.

I admit that I don't know the answer to those. However, the reaction of the woman shows us ways that we can respond when faced with hard questions and difficult situations.

Firstly, in the midst of her trouble and desperation, she recognised who Jesus was and that she should turn to him. She recognised him as someone special, as the one with the power to help her.

Secondly, she reacted with boldness. She was not put off by approaching a stranger, by approaching a man or by approaching a foreigner – none of which would have been easy for a woman of her time to do. Her boldness continued as she pressed the matter and argued her case. She was not put off by Jesus's silence or the disciples' irritation.

Finally, she approached with faith – and that is her claim to fame. She argued her case. Her boldness and her faith go hand-in-hand. Her request was not a "well, Lord, if you might, possibly ..." She trusted that Jesus was the one to help her and wouldn't take no for an answer.

Are we like that woman? When we approach Jesus, do we truly recognise who he is – the Lord of Lords but the Saviour who can meet our deepest needs?

Do we approach with faith, clearly asking, or do we provide God with get-out clauses: "Please heal my friend – or at least make him not quite as bad?"

Do we approach with boldness?

And, when we don't get the answer we want, does our faith allow us to answer back? God's back is strong enough to take it if we shout and rail back at him – as long as our faith then allows us to respond to his answer.

A time of prayer

Re-read the last verse of the hymn. Take a time to sit quietly

"Bold I approach the eternal throne ..."
I approach your throne for the people I know personally that need a special touch from you. I picture them as I place them into your loving hands.

I approach your throne for the people who are shouting out with questions and despair and don't know where to turn. Be their comfort Lord.

I approach your throne for those far from me and give to you their needs, knowing that I can trust you to respond.

The Lord's Prayer *Our Father*

Hymn: Faithful One (Singing the Faith 628)

Sing or listen to it here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PjSO5hIOM>

Faithful One, so unchanging,
Ageless One, you're my rock of peace.
Lord of all I depend on you,
I call out to you again and again.
I call out to you again and again.
You are my rock in times of trouble.
You lift me up when I fall down.
All through the storm your love is the anchor,
my hope is in you alone.

Brian Doerksen (b. 1965)

A prayer of blessing

In the joys, may I celebrate with you Lord.
In the troubles, may I shout out to you with boldness and listen to you in faith.
And in the everyday, may I journey on with you.

Original Materials by Alan Darlington

Hymns reproduced under CCLI 1144191.

Local Churches please insert CCLI No here

Matthew 15: 21-28

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a

Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.